

Pets in Parks



Pet Icon.

Pets, People and Florida State Parks

Pets, People and Parks

We know everyone has a different definition of “family” and for some, this includes a pet or two.

Therefore, the Florida Park Service wants everyone to know and understand how to best include a pet in a visit to one of Florida’s state parks. Reviewing this publication will help ensure everyone’s enjoyment and safety, as well as, help protect the resources we manage.



A dog on a leash pauses while drinking water at a pet water fountain.

What is a Pet?

Pets are considered to be animals which are easily tamed or domesticated and kept primarily for companionship.

What about Service Animals?

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, service animals are defined as dogs which have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. We welcome service animals in any area of a state park where the public is normally allowed.

Visiting with Pets

Pets are allowed in most areas of the park. Some common areas where pets are not allowed include:



Visitor Center icon with a red no symbol.

Buildings



Swimming icon with a red no symbol.

Swimming Areas



Concession and Restaurant icon with a red no symbol.

Food Service Areas



Playground icon with a red no symbol.

Playgrounds



Cabins icon with a red no symbol.

Cabins



Camping icon with a red no symbol.

Other Use Areas

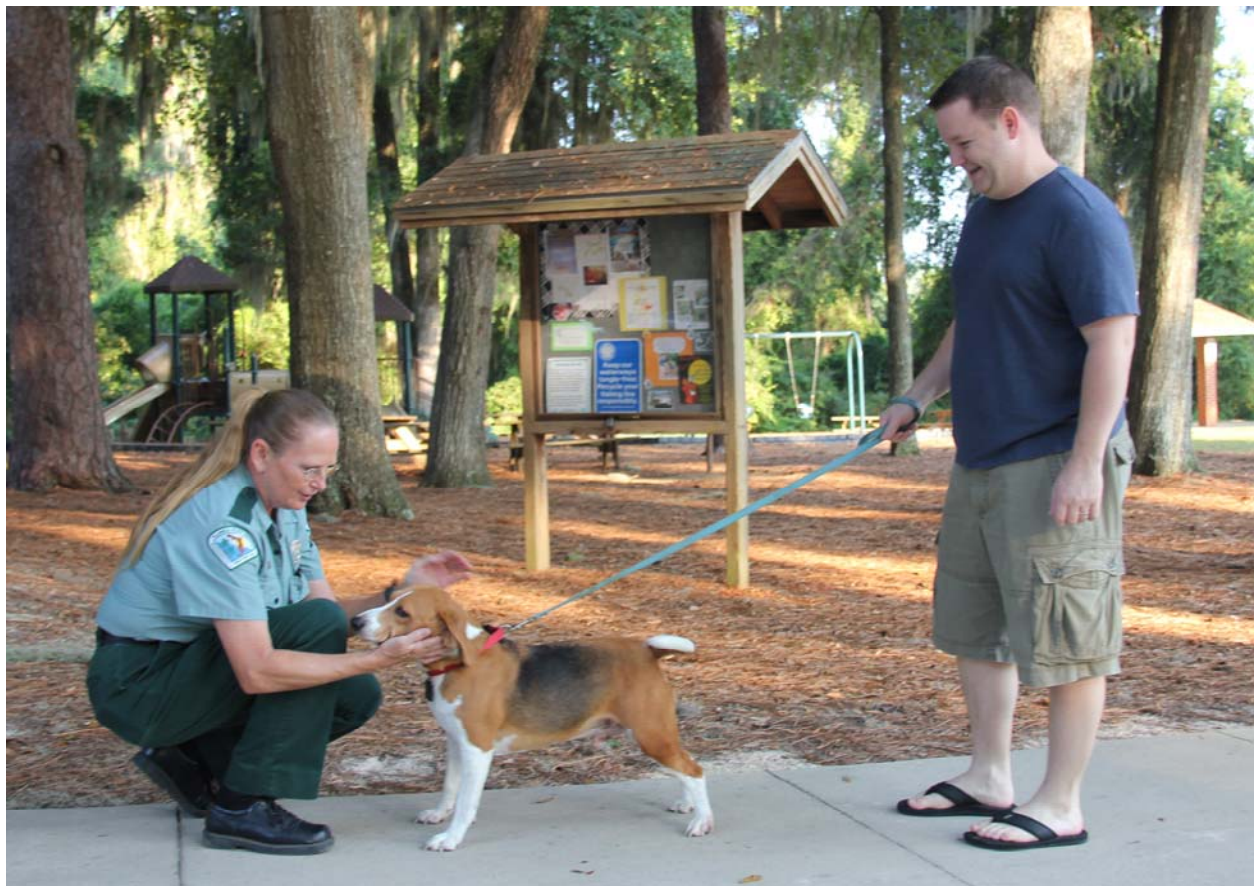
Please contact individual parks directly or ask a Park Ranger for specific information regarding pet-friendly areas within each park.

Pets must be under control.

Pets must be confined, leashed or otherwise under physical control at all times. Leashes may not exceed six feet in length.

Pets must be well behaved at all times.

Pets which disturb other visitors, other pets or the resources by being noisy, dangerous, intimidating or destructive will be considered a nuisance.



A female Park Ranger kneels while petting a young man's leashed dog.

Pets must be vaccinated.

Rabies vaccinations are required for most dogs, cats and ferrets.

Please properly dispose of pet waste.

Pet waste must be bagged before being placed into a trash receptacle. Pet waste bag dispensers are located in many parks.

Pets in campgrounds.

Unconfined pets must be leashed and may not be left unattended in the campsite for more than 30 minutes.

Campground quiet hours are 11 p.m. - 7 a.m. Pets must be confined in a tent, R.V. or camper during these hours.

If you think someone may not understand the pet rules, please notify a Park Ranger. Unfortunately, not following

the park pet rules may result in the owner and/or pet being asked to leave the park.

Pet Safety

Tips for keeping your pet happy and healthy when visiting a Florida State Park.

- Keep your pet cool. Florida's weather can be warm even in the winter.
- Always have plenty of water for your pet.
- Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, even when the windows are open and you are parked in the shade. Even when the temperature is in the 60s, vehicles can reach dangerous temperatures on bright, sunny days.

- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion. If your pet is restless, panting heavily, lethargic or shows signs of dizziness, try lowering his or her body temperature. Place a cool towel or ice on the head, neck and chest.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially when you and your pet are near bodies of water. Alligators are one of the animals which may see your pet as a food source.
- Do not leave food and water outside while your pet is inside overnight. Pet food left out may attract ants or native wildlife like raccoons and bears to your campsite.
- Test the temperature of the ground before walking your pet. Paved roads, sidewalks and sandy areas may be hot enough to burn your pet's feet.



Two young ladies walk three leashed dogs down a nature trail.

Department of Environmental Protection

Florida State Parks

3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 535

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

(850) 245-2157

www.floridastateparks.org



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State Parks
...the Real Florida



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